

REMARKS

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 16, 2007, Claims 1 and 18 have been amended, Claims 3-4, 8, 12-17, and 20-21 have been cancelled, and Claims 22-26 have been added by this Amendment and Response. Therefore, Claims 1-2, 5-7, 9-11, 18-19, and 22-26 are now pending. No new matter has been added. The Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are now allowable, and respectfully solicit an allowance thereof.

Allowable Subject Matter Indicated

In the Final Office Action, Claim 8 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim. To place the claims in allowable form, the limitations of Claim 8 have been incorporated into amended independent Claim 1. Furthermore, because independent Claim 18 contains essentially the same features as Claim 1, except that the steps are performed on a second digital image, the Applicants have additionally incorporated the limitations of Claim 8 into amended independent Claim 18 so as to place independent Claim 18 in allowable form as well.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully assert that independent Claims 1 and 18 are in condition for allowance, as both amended independent Claims 1 and 18 now include subject matter that has been indicated to be allowable in the Final Office Action.

The Applicants also respectfully contend that each of dependent Claims 2, 5-7, 9-11, 19, and 22-26 depend ultimately from allowable independent Claims 1 or 18, and therefore are allowable as a matter of law, notwithstanding their independent recitation of patentable features.

Rejections of Claims 1-7 and 9-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Final Office Action, Claims 1-7 and 9-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,754,674 to Ott et al. ("Ott") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,363,162 B2 to Moed et al. ("Moed"). By the above-listed amendments, independent Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of Claim 8, and Claims 3-4, 8, 12-17, and 20-21 have been cancelled. Therefore, the rejections under 35 U.S.C.

§ 103(a) of independent Claims 1 and 18, as well as any claims depending therefrom, are now moot.

New Claims Allowable Over the References of Record

By this Amendment and Response, the Applicants have added new dependent Claims 22-26, depending from amended independent Claim 18, which incorporates the limitations of Claim 8 indicated as allowable. Claims 22-26 mirror previously presented dependent Claims 2, 7, and 9-11, respectively. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully contend that each of the new dependent Claims 22-26 depend ultimately from allowable independent Claim 18, and therefore are allowable as a matter of law, notwithstanding their independent recitation of patentable features.

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Amendment and Response Accompanying RCE

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration of the application is requested in light of the amended claims, specification, and the remarks. The Applicants believe they have responded to each matter raised by the Examiner. Allowance of the claims is respectfully solicited. It is not believed that extensions of time or additional fees are required beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a), and any fee required therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-5029.

Respectfully submitted,



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